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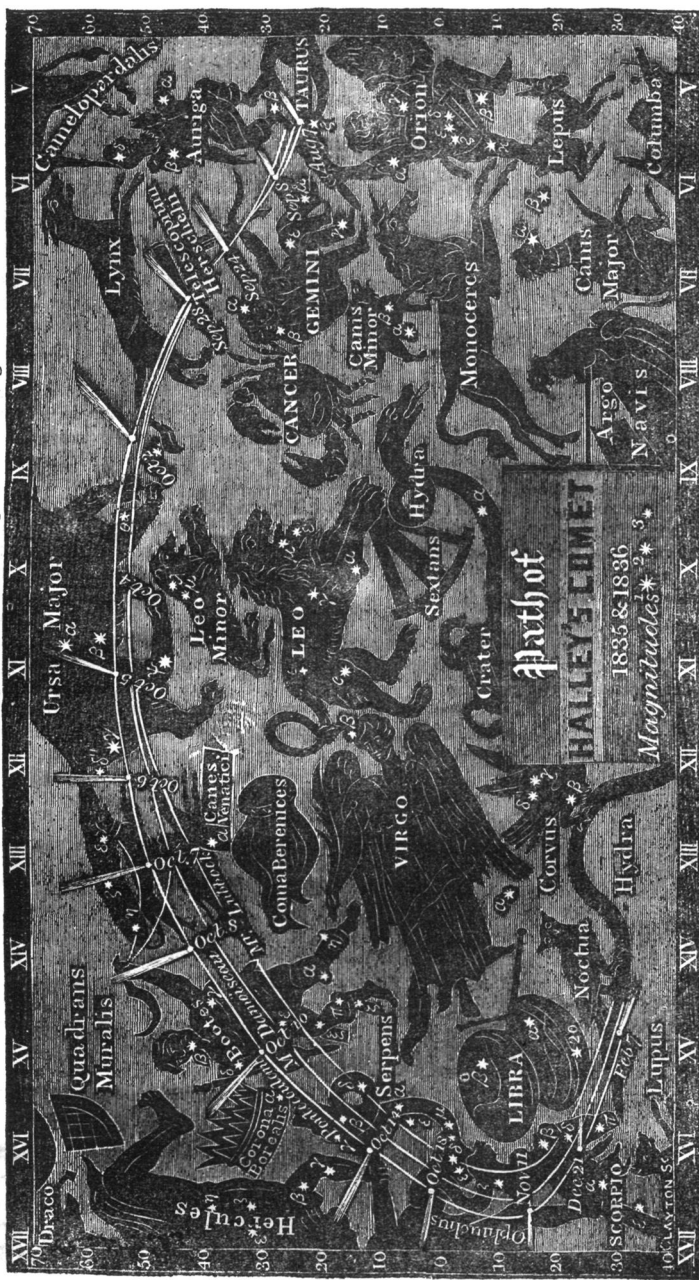
HALLEY'S COMET.

The following particulars relative to this comet are given by Sir John Herschell:

"The comet of Halley is so called from the celebrated Edmund Halley, who on calculating its elements from its perihelion passage in 1682, when it appeared in great splendour, with a tail 30 degrees in length, was led to conclude its identity with the great comets of 1531 and 1607, whose elements he had also ascertained. The intervals of these successive apparitions being 75 and 76 years, Halley was encouraged to predict its reappearance about the year 1759. So remarkable a prediction could not fail to attract the attention of all astronomers; and, as the time approached, it became extremely interesting to know whether the attractions of the larger planets might not materially interfere with its orbital motion. The computation of their influence from the Newtonian law of gravity, a most difficult and intricate piece of calculation, was undertaken and accomplished by Clairaut, who found that the action of Saturn would retard its re-

turn by 100 days, and that of Jupiter by no less than 518, making in all 618 days; by which the expected return would happen later than on the supposition of its retaining an unaltered period, and that, in short, the time of the expected perihelion passage would take place within a month, one way or other, of the middle of April, 1759. It actually happened on the 12th of March in that year. Its next return to the perihelion has been calculated by Messrs. Damoiseau and Pontécoulant, and fixed by the former on the 4th, and by the latter on the 7th of November, 1835, about a month or six weeks before which time it may be expected to become visible in our hemisphere; and, as it will approach pretty near the earth, will very probably exhibit a brilliant appearance, though to judge from the successive diminutions of its apparent rise, and the length of its tail in its several returns since its first appearances on record, (in 1305, 1456, &c.,) we are not now to expect any of those vast and awful phenomena which threw our remote ancestors of the middle ages into agonies of superstitious terror, and caused public prayers to be put up in the churches against the comet and its malignant agencies."

The 'Almanach de Götta pour l'Année 1835' observes, that though the Comet has varied very much in its appearances, as regards its brilliancy, the length and form of its tail, &c., still it has been found to diminish gradually. We cannot determine under what form it will appear next year, but it will probably be less brilliant than in 1759. If its light be not too feeble, it will appear during the month of August, in the East, about midnight, and must be looked for in the constellation *Taurus*. It will move so very slowly, that it will not have reached *Gemini* before the middle of September, when it will be visible for a great part of the night. Following a north-east course, it will reach *Lynx* early in October, when on account of its great northern declination, it will be nearly in our zenith, and will neither rise nor set. Afterwards its motions will be more rapid, so that about the 6th of October, it will have passed *Ursa Major*, and on the 11th, will be below *Corona Borealis*, and only visible in the morning, and for a short time in the evening. After the 21st of October it will not be visible in the morning, and will set early in the evening. In the month of November, it will



be seen for a short time at sunset, and will then disappear. In the month of December it will re-appear on the western side of the sun, and be visible for a short time in the morning. Sir Thomas Brisbane has received a communication from Mr. Rumker, his former able assistant at the Paramatta Observatory, stating it as his opinion, that with a good telescope the Comet may possibly be seen much earlier than is generally expected. The foregoing chart indicates the path of this Comet amongst the fixed stars. The elements of the orbit given by M. de Pontécoulant are as follows:

Passage of the Perihelion, Nov. 7.			
Passage of the perihelion on the orbit	304° 31' 43"	Ratio of the eccentricity to the semi axis major	0.6075212
Longitude of the ascending node	55 30 0	Semi axis major	17.98703
Inclination of the orbit	17 44 24	Motion retrograde.	